Measurable Results

The UEI and its community partners have worked together since 1995 to achieve measurable environmental results with focused investment, effective partnerships, and community involvement. The Tufts University School of Medicine, Dept. of Family Medicine and Community Health has served as a strong liaison to communities in New England and helped guide the creation of the UEI. In 1995, Tufts conducted a key informant survey, asking community leaders from the public and non-profit sectors in the three target cities to help identify the key issues of concern and the ways EPA New England could help urban residents address these issues. The top issues of concern were air pollution (both indoor and outdoor), lead poisoning, vacant lots, jobs/poverty, fish contamination and storm water run-off. When asked the single most significant change needed to address these issues the top answers were enforce the law, the need for broad coalitions of groups working with the communities, jobs and employment, and political leadership. When asked specifically what role EPA should have respondents pointed out that EPA didn't focus on their issues and frankly they were tired of EPA asking what they could do but not actually having resources available to do work. Survey participants wanted EPA to make clear what it had to offer and create mechanisms for communities to access those resources. They wanted EPA to recognize their issues and show leadership to also direct other federal, state and local government attention and resources to these concerns. The UEI resolved to make these concerns a foundation to the program and to direct targeted investment to achieve these results and much more.

Funding patterns always reveal program emphasis. Communities have reported that some government programs designed to assist communities occasionally become diverted in other directions. The following maps, charts and graphs provide evidence that the financial allocations of the UEI consistently support the tenets of the program model. During the first years of the UEI, funding matched Phase 1-2 activities and needs highlighted through the UEI Community Development Pyramid. This early work generally required more targeted use of resources, and built a foundation to eventually reduce reliance on only EPA grant awards. Initial grant resources primarily focused on increasing community capacity and environmental education and supported some targeted issue work. As local capacity increased, funding shifted over time to support projects tackling specific issues with less emphasis on general capacity building and environmental education (See Figure 1). All of these projects were consistently leveraged with additional EPA financial resources including Environmental Justice Small Grants and Environmental Education Grants and in-kind technical resources including enforcement, laboratory sampling, and reconnaissance efforts. Over time more EPA New England Programs supported UEI projects with resources to maximize community benefit.

Funding sources for the UEI have been from a variety of sources including the Regional Geographic Initiative (RGI), Regional Administrator Discretionary, and discretionary funding from Pesticides, Toxics, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA), Environmental Justice (EJ) and Community-Based Environmental Protection (CBEP) programs. These dedicated resources have been decreasing and unstable every year due to the discretionary nature of the funding sources. The total amount of UEI investment and resources leveraged from other EPA funding

Figure 1. Total UEI Funding in Boston by Year

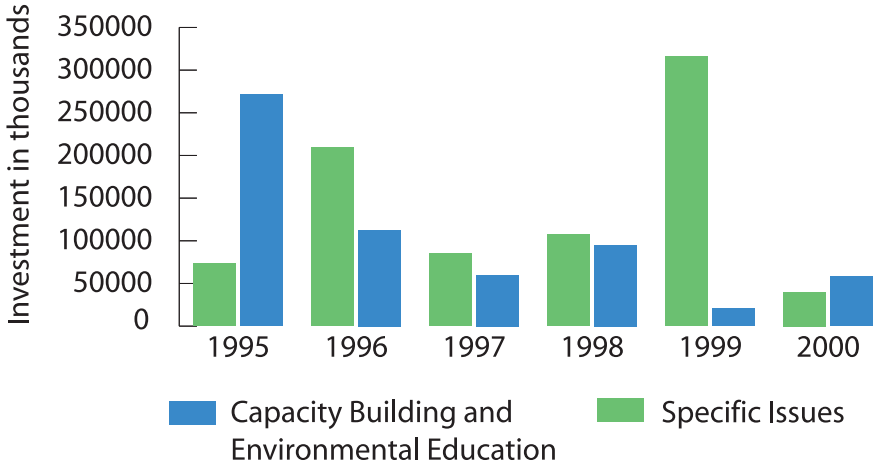


Figure 2. Total Program Investment 1995-2000

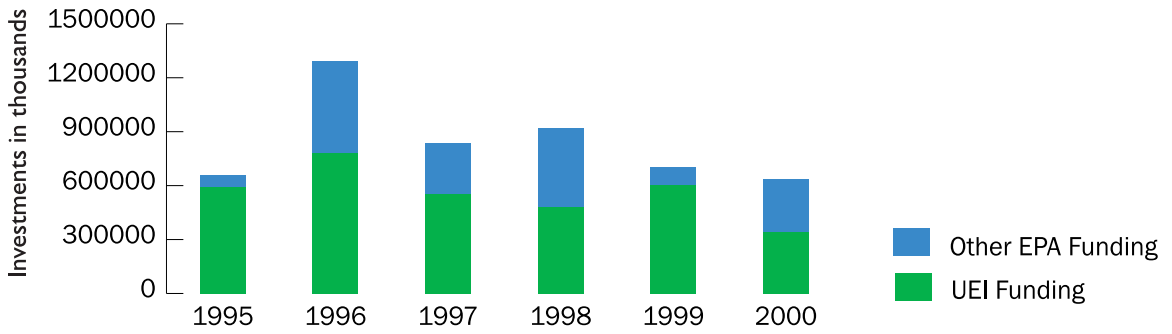
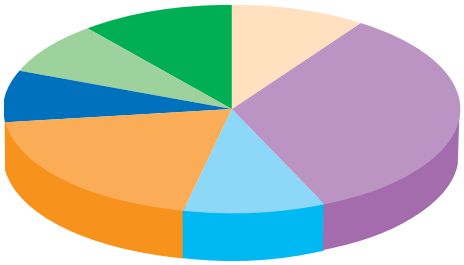
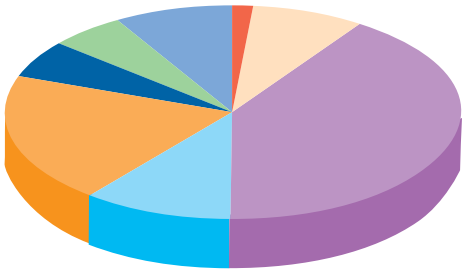


Figure 3. Total UEI Investment



Urban Rivers	$365,525	10.9%
Open Space	$269,304	8.0%
Lead	$656,947	19.6%
Environmental Education	$337,097	10.0%
Capacity Building	$1,135,575	33.8%
Asthma	$320,103	9.5%
Sustainable Development	$272,646	8.1%

Figure 4. Total Investment from UEI and other Programs



Urban Rivers	$426,015	8.4%
Open Space	$286,304	5.7%
Lead	$994,373	19.7%
Environmental Education	$538,831	10.7%
Capacity Bldg.	$2,049,534	40.6%
Asthma	$405,103	8.0%
Ambient Air	$75,000	1.5%
Sustainable Development	$272,646	5.4%

sources is detailed in Figure 2. The breakdown of UEI investment (Figure 3) and total investment leveraged from other government funding sources (Figure 4) shows the pilot program's resources have targeted a range of environment and public health issues. As the graphs illustrate, the UEI has successfully leveraged federal EPA resources from the Clean Water Act, EMPACT, TSCA, Environmental Justice grants, Environmental Education Grants, state lead funding, and other sources.

From 1995-2000 the UEI awarded a total of 111 grants totaling $3,357,197 targeted in the neighborhoods of Boston, Providence, and Hartford (Figure 5) and leveraged an additional 42 grants totaling $1,690,609. In sum, UEI was able to secure a total of 153 projects across target cities with a total value of $5,047,806 in internal financial resources (Figure 6). These resources are invested across the following the UEI target areas:

Figure 5. Total UEI Investment by City

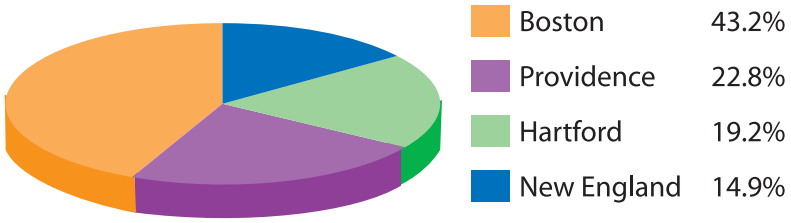
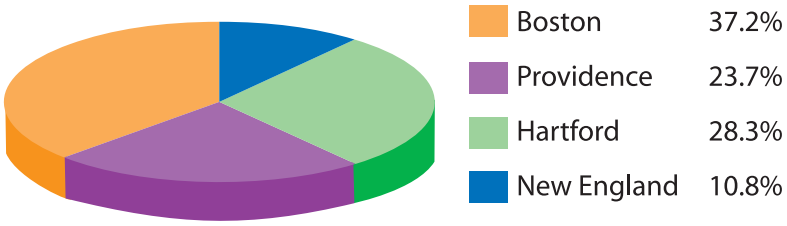


Figure 6. Total Program Investment by City



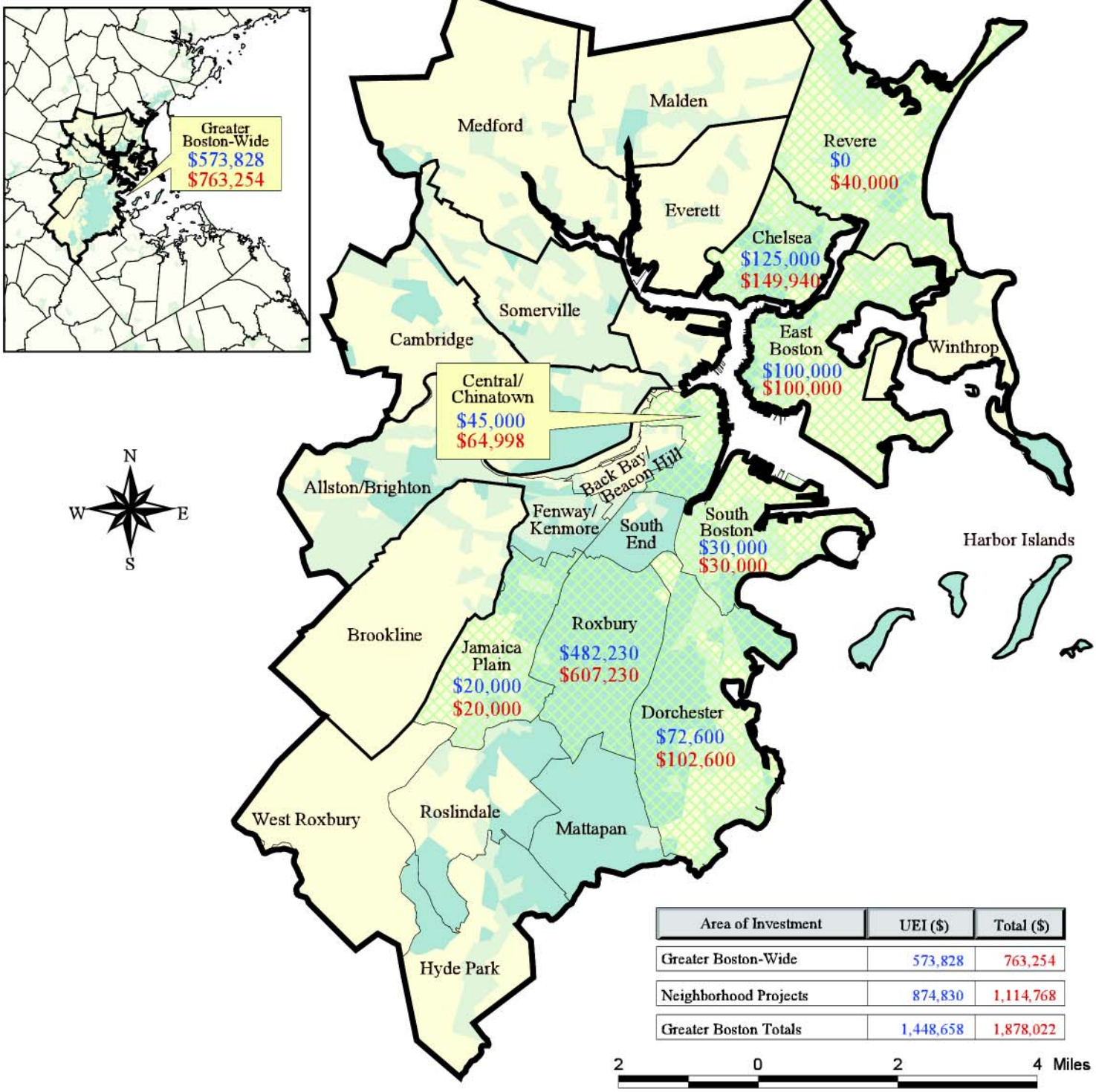
- In Greater Boston, the UEI funded 41 grants totaling $1,448,658 in funding, and leveraged an additional $429,364 in funding through 18 additional projects to benefit residents throughout the Greater Boston metropolitan area. Total Greater Boston investment resulted in 59 projects worth $1,878,022. (See Greater Boston Map 1 for detailed information on investments, neighborhoods targeted, and low income/minority populations serviced)

- In Providence, the UEI funded 39 grants totaling $764,504 in funding and leveraged an additional $429,328 in funding through 12 grant projects. Total Providence investment resulted in 51 projects worth $1,193,832. (See Providence Map 2 for detailed information on investments, neighborhoods targeted, and low income/minority populations serviced)

- In Hartford, the UEI funded 21 grants totaling $643,086 in funding and leveraged an additional $696,961 in funding through 9 grant projects. Total Hartford investment resulted in 30 projects worth $1,340,047. (See Hartford Map 3 for detailed information on investments, neighborhoods targeted, and low income/minority populations serviced)

- In addition to these target cities, the UEI funded 10 regional grants which totaled $500,949 and leveraged an additional 3 grants totaling $44,956. These regional grants supported projects that benefitted the communities of Greater Boston, Providence, and Hartford.

refer to maps on pgs. 14-16



Area of Investment	UEI ($)	Total ($)
Greater Boston-Wide	573,828	763,254
Neighborhood Projects	874,830	1,114,768
Greater Boston Totals	1,448,658	1,878,022

Urban Environmental Initiative Investments and Total Investments In the Greater Boston Area

Low-Income/Minority Population

- Low
- Medium
- High

- Neighborhood Projects
- Town Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- UEI Investment
- Total Investment*

Data Sources: Town Boundaries from MassGIS at 1:24,000. Investment data from EPA-New England.
Map Updated: February 21, 2001;EPA-New England GIS Center
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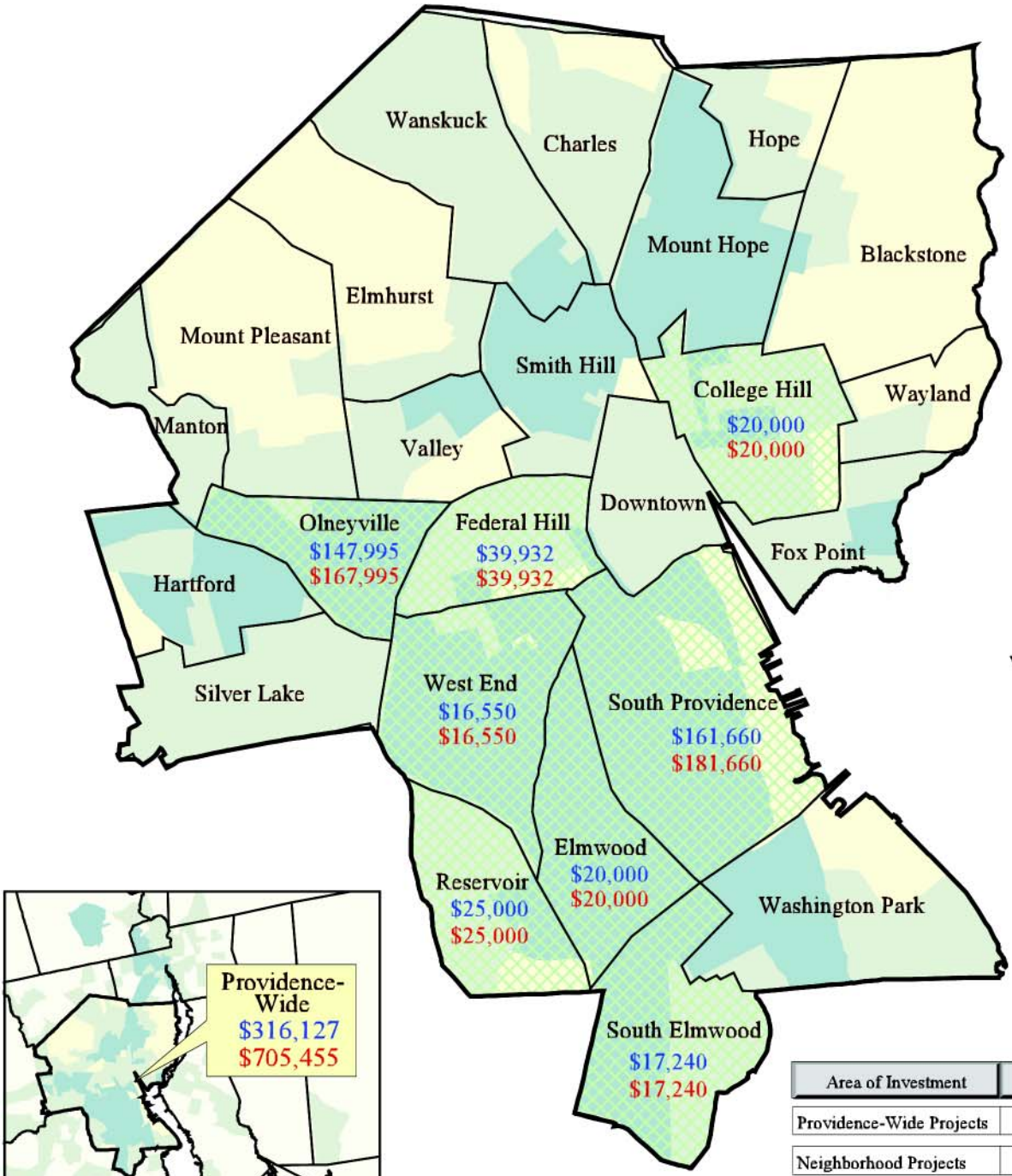
* Total Investment includes funding from the UEI in addition to other EPA sources such as the Clean Water Act, EMPACT, TSCA, State funding, and Environmental Justice grants.



Area of Investment	UEI ($)	Total ($)
Providence-Wide Projects	316,127	705,455
Neighborhood Projects	448,377	488,377
Providence Total	764,504	1,193,832

Urban Environmental Initiative Investments and Total Investments In Providence, RI

Low-Income/Minority Population

- Low
- Medium
- High

- Neighborhood Projects
- Town Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- UEI Investment
- Total Investment*

Data Sources: Town Boundaries from RIGIS at 1:24,000. Investment data from EPA-New England.
Map Created: February 21, 2001;
EPA-New England GIS Center
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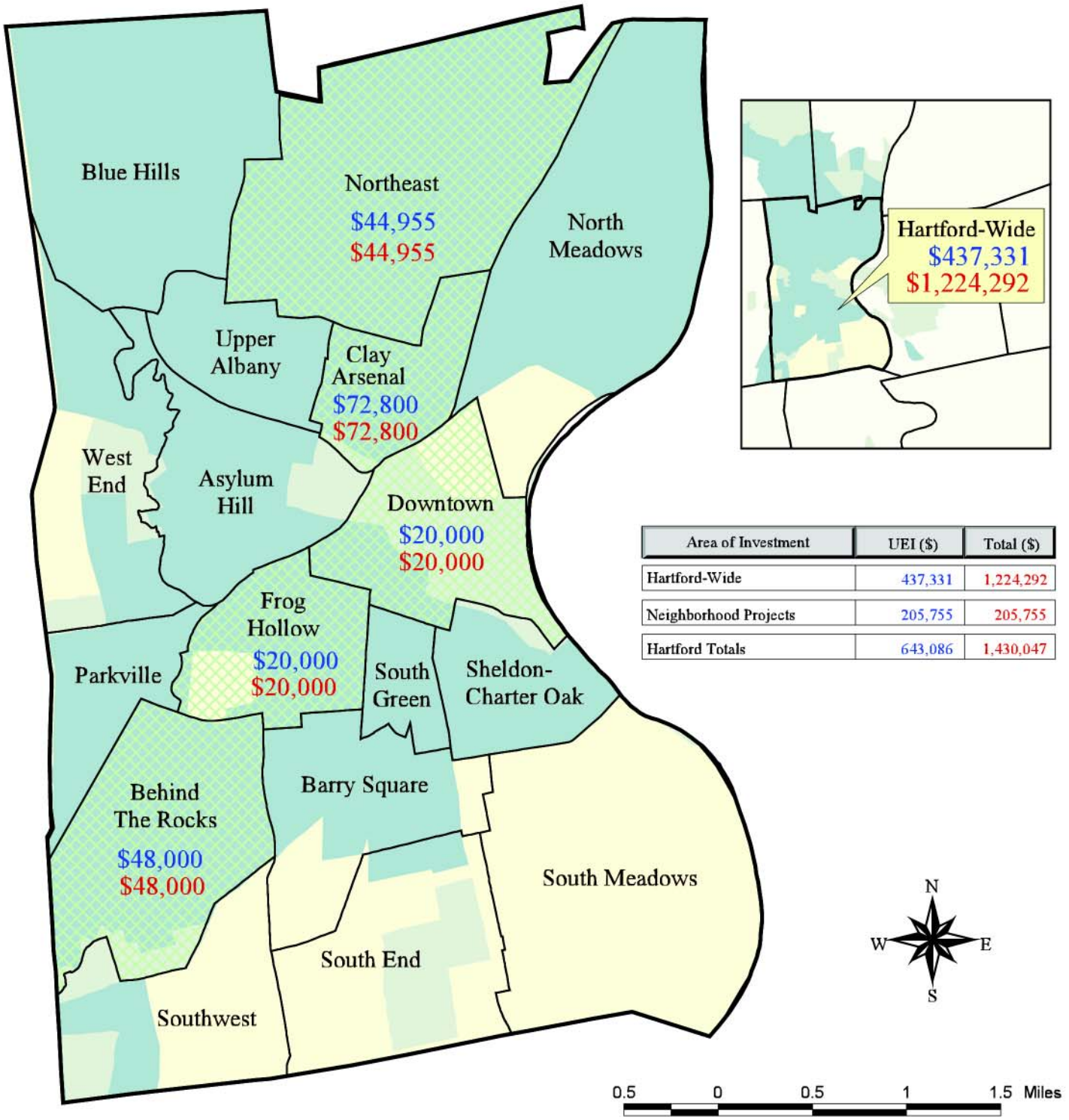
* Total Investment includes funding from the UEI in addition to other EPA sources such as the Clean Water Act, EMPACT, TSCA, State funding, and Environmental Justice grants.



Area of Investment	UEI ($)	Total ($)
Hartford-Wide	437,331	1,224,292
Neighborhood Projects	205,755	205,755
Hartford Totals	643,086	1,430,047

Urban Environmental Initiative Investments and Total Investments In Hartford, CT

Low-Income/Minority Population
- Low
- Medium
- High

- Neighborhood Projects
- Town Boundary
- Neighborhood Boundary
- UEI Investment
- Total Investment*

Data Sources: Town Boundaries from ConnDEPat 1:24,000. Investment data from EPA-New England.
Map Created: February 21, 2001;EPA-New England GIS Center
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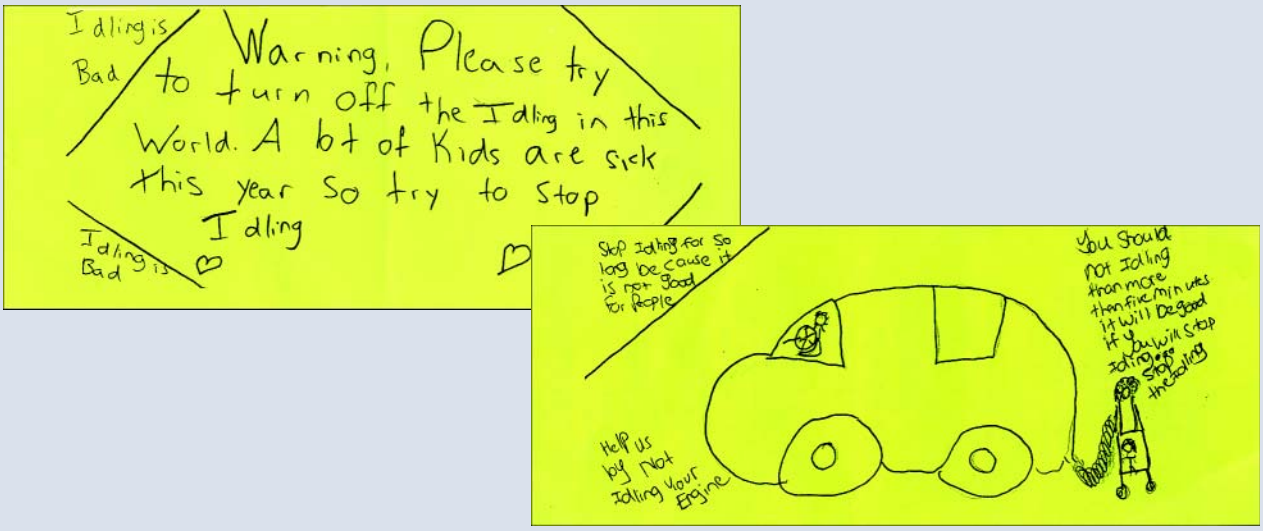
* Total Investment includes funding from the UEI in addition to other EPA sources such as the Clean Water Act, EMPACT, TSCA, State funding, and Environmental Justice grants.

Anti-Idling Day in Roxbury, MA

Community residents and Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE) noticed that buses garaged at the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority's (MBTA) Bartlett Street Garage often idle for up to 30 minutes at a time. This is especially problematic because of the large number of diesel vehicles housed in the area. There are more than 15 bus and truck depots within 1.75 miles of Dudley Square in Roxbury, housing over 1,150 diesel vehicles including 500 MBTA buses, 230 school buses, and 70 private buses. Asthma hospitalization rates in Roxbury are five times higher than the state average, and over twice the rate in Boston. ACE discovered that these long periods of idling directly violated Massachusetts Anti-Idling Law which limits idling time to 5 minutes. Outraged that this law was not being enforced in Roxbury, local residents and elementary school children joined youth in the UEI-funded Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Program (REEP) and organized an anti-idling march and press conference.

The students designed a "ticket" to educate drivers about the Anti-Idling Law and in October 1997, 75 youth from three different schools marched from Egleston Square to Dudley Square in Roxbury distributing these tickets and chanting slogans. They also organized a press conference in Dudley Station where high-level environmental officials from state and federal government spoke, resulting in significant television and newspaper media coverage. Following the march, students from Greater Egleston Community High School wrote letters to the editors of local newspapers calling for clean, alternative fuel MBTA buses. Through their actions, these REEP youth and local school children brought the idling issue to the public and media. This has caused significant changes in MBTA policy and idling practices, and the use of more cleaner-fuel buses in the community.



UEI and community partners have produced results, meeting both quantitative and qualitative goals and objectives. Since 1998, the UEI has developed annual integrated work plans for each target city that are linked with Government Results Performance Act (GPRA) goals, objectives, and sub-objectives. The agency goal that best reflects the UEI's work is Goal 4 (Preventing Pollution and Reducing Risk in Communities, Homes, Workplaces, and Ecosystems). These standards are a focal point for measuring progress and ensuring that resources are dedicated to achieving environmental results. A full report of annual accomplishments and measurable results for each UEI target city is available upon request, as such detail could not fully be captured in this five year report. Below is a small selection of many UEI short term highlights and measurable results since its start in 1995:

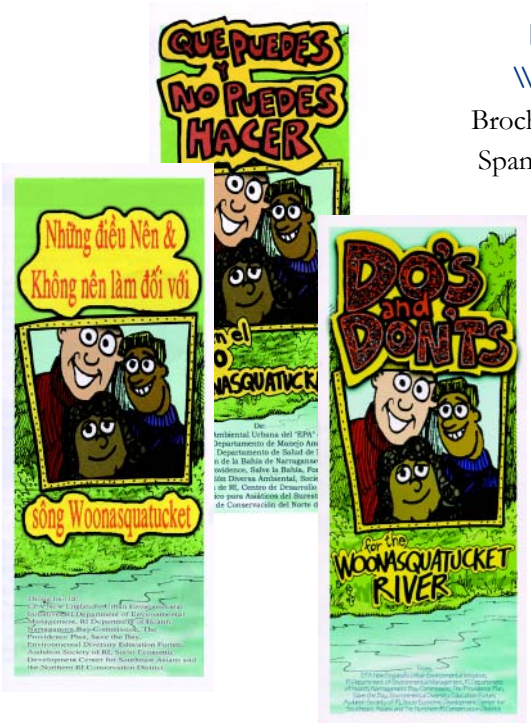
Vacant Lots in Providence: UEI's work with Direct Action for Rights and

Volunteers clean up trash from illegal dumping on vacant lots in Providence, RI.

Equality (DARE), Brown University and the Mayor's Office in Providence identified over 4,000 urban vacant lots within Providence City limits, many with significant environment and public health problems from illegal dumping and rats. UEI provided funding to the City of Providence's Environmental Strike Team (PEST) to clean debris, trash and waste from over 600 lots throughout the city. The UEI leveraged EPA laboratory resources to sample 170 city-owned vacant lots for lead poisoning as an indicator of contamination from illegal dumping and demolished homes. Forty of the lots sampled contained dangerously high lead levels and the City of Providence's Deptartment of Planning contracted a local company to mitigate the contamination. The UEI also helped community and local government partners create and implement a Special Vacant Lot for $1 Program that allows qualified residents to purchase some of the vacant lots for a single dollar. In exchange for the low cost, residents promise to put the lots into productive use and maintain the property for five years. The UEI also worked with DARE and the RI Dept. of Health to produce and distribute a multi-lingual brochure to local residents about lead in residential soils, the Special Vacant Lot for $1 Program, and what they can do to limit childhood exposure to lead in soil. DARE, City of Providence Dept. of Planning, and UEI worked together to create the Alice Hicks Mini-Grants Program which provides up to $5,000 to qualified new owners of vacant lots to rehabilitate the lot. These resources an be used for landscaping, creating urban garden, elevated flower beds or other creative and safe re-use of the property.

Do's & Don'ts for the Woonasquatucket River: The Woonasquatucket River, which flows 18 miles from North Smithfield to the Upper Narragansett Bay in Providence, is a centerpiece of Providence's urban revitalization efforts where the river is the focal point for the nationally-acclaimed Waterfire shows. In 1996, the UEI learned from community groups that urban residents were subsistence fishing and eel trapping in urban parts of the river. Subsequent sampling efforts revealed significant and extensive dioxin and PCB contamination in fish tissue, soil and sediment in and along the Woonasquatucket. The UEI helped engage the Superfund program that now works at an ongoing site at Centredale Manor to identify the best opportunities to clean up the contamination. The UEI worked with nearly 40 community and local government partners including the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District and The Providence Plan to create and implement the "Do's and Don'ts for the Woonasquatucket River" multi-lingual education and outreach campaign to help children, families, and visitors safely enjoy the urban resource. The education campaign has reached urban elementary schools with classroom presentations to over 400 children in the third and fourth grade, trained youth River Rangers at the Providence Plan to give 10 presentations reaching over 100 children through the Parks Dept., reached hundreds of adults through community centers and town council presentations, and has reached 10,000 local residents with multi-lingual brochures through door-to-door campaigns and community events.

Landfill Improvements in Hartford: Hartford is home to more regional waste disposal facilities than any other Connecticut town. It receives waste from 77 Connecticut towns, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York City. The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority operates the Hartford landfill, consisting of an 86



Do's & Don'ts for the Woonasquatucket River: Brochure is available in English, Spanish, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Vietnamese and Portugese.

acre unlined area for municipal solid and special waste and an 17 acre double lined area that receives municipal solid waste combustion ash residue. Working in partnership with community groups including ONE/CHANE, the UEI helped secure technical resources to extensively sample and test the sight. Unified community efforts stimulated nearly $13 million in anti-pollution improvements and over $500,000 for community health studies.

Turning Vacant Lots & Brownfields Into Sustainable Urban Agriculture: Founded in 1991, The Food Project addresses environmental issues by remediating land, modeling sustainable agriculture practices, developing local capacity, training and employing youth leaders, and raising fresh produce to feed hungry and low-income residents in Greater Boston. Urban agriculture provides a holistic answer to many problems found in many low-income communities and makes positive assets out of problems from vacant land and barren brownfields properties and empowers local youth with leadership skills. Starting in 1995, the UEI partnered with The Food Project to expand its farming base to include redevelopment of vacant land in Roxbury and help sell its freshly-harvested organic produce at an Urban Farmers Market in the Dudley Street Neighborhood. Staffed by stipened youth program participants, the market provides low-cost, healthy and fresh food to neighborhood residents. Since its inception, The Food Project has reclaimed and transformed two acres of urban land for food production and increased farmed land from four to twenty-one acres; brought together over 3,100 youth from Greater Boston to remediate and cultivate farm land in Roxbury and Lincoln; employed over 250 youth from Greater Boston through summer and Academic Year Programs; harvested and distributed nearly 300,000 pounds of locally-produced organic produce; supplied fresh organic produce to fifteen local soup kitchens, urban and suburban families, an urban business, the Urban Farmers Market, and a Community Supported Agriculture Program; and facilitated nearly 7,000 volunteer hours at Greater Boston soup kitchens.

A vacant lot in Providence, RI.

Building trust and credibility

In January 2001 Tufts University again surveyed UEI grant recipients from 1995 to the present. The survey found that 84% of grantees felt that as a result of their involvement with UEI they are better able to participate in the public processes that effect the environmental quality of their community. Across the six priority UEI issues, 75% of the grantees work on at least three issues, if you include groups working on at least two issues it climbs to 91%. This demonstrates a remarkable ability on the part of UEI grantees to use the multi-media approach that is the hallmark of UEI. The UEI has also been extremely effective in getting EPA resources to these grantees. The UEI directly responded to the information from community groups in 1995 to let the community know what it had to offer and now it is possible to see that groups know what EPA has to offer and that they are making use of these resources. The survey identified 12 specific resources: Tools for Schools; Brownfields; River Preservation; Radon; Water Quality Testing; EPA Training; Integrated Pest Management; Asthma; Lead Poisoning Prevention; Targeted Enforcement; Soil Testing and other EPA Grant programs. On average groups accessed 6 of these tools from EPA New England through the UEI. The results from this survey verify that the UEI achieved the measurable program goal of building capacity at the local level and linking communities to other EPA programs and resources.

The previous discussion centered on tangible short term results, but only time will afford a retrospective look that can truly calculate the results and success of the UEI. These long-term results include todays unknowns such as the number of poor environmental decisions that will be avoided because of a fully aware infrastructure of concerned and dedicated people now participating in decision-making. How many pieces of thoughtful legislation will be passed or creative solutions to todays problems will come forth simply as a result of an educated citizenry? Though their genesis may be a result current actions, it is not possible to measure all the future progress that will be made due to UEI efforts.

UEI staff receive a community tour of many urban vacant lots in Providence, RI.